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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [CH](#)

SUBJECT: PARTY SEVENTH PLENUM OPENS; FINAL PREPARATIONS FOR
OCTOBER 15 PARTY CONGRESS UNDERWAY

REF: A. FBIS/OSC CPP 20070726163004

[1](#)B. BEIJING 6503

[1](#)C. BEIJING 6157

[1](#)D. BEIJING 5706

Classified By: Political Internal Unit Chief
Dan Kritenbrink. Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (SBU) Final, formal preparations for the October 15 Party Congress began today with the announcement that the Seventh plenary session (plenum) of the 16th Chinese Communist Party (CCP) Central Committee opened the morning of October 9 in Beijing, as expected (Ref D). According to the Xinhua News Agency report announcing the opening, the Plenum is charged with discussing drafts of three key documents to be formally delivered at next week's Party Congress: A) the 16th Central Committee's Report to the Congress (commonly referred to as the "Political Report"), which General Secretary Hu Jintao will deliver, laying out the Party's accomplishments over the past five years and its goals for the next five years; B) the revision to the Party Constitution, most likely to incorporate concepts such as "Scientific Development" associated with Hu Jintao (Ref C); and C) the Work Report of the Central Discipline Inspection Commission's (CDIC). In what should be a mere formality, the Plenum should also officially authorize the opening of the 17th Party Congress on October 15.

[1](#)2. (SBU) The Plenum may also announce the final determination regarding the case of Chen Liangyu, the ousted former Shanghai Party Secretary. When Xinhua on July 26, 2007 announced that Chen had been formally expelled from the Party and dismissed from his government positions (Ref A), the news agency said that his expulsion would "subsequently be confirmed at a plenary session of the CCP Central Committee," which should be this week's Plenum. An October 9 article in the PRC-owned Hong Kong paper Wen Wei Po said that a formal determination of the case involving Chen Liangyu, as well as other officials subject to disciplinary proceedings such as former Shandong Deputy Party Secretary Du Shicheng, will likely be made at the Seventh Plenum, although according to the article these cases could also be handled at the Party Congress itself.

Comment

[1](#)3. (C) There are few surprises expected out of this week's Plenum, whose primary purpose is supposed to be limited to making final preparations for next week's main event, the 17th Party Congress. A communique summarizing those portions of Plenum discussions that the Party chooses to make public should be issued upon the Plenum's close, sometime later this week. (Note: In 1997 and 2002, the Seventh Plenums of the 14th and 15th CCP Central Committees each lasted three days.)
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